



BRYNMAWR URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL
OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND SANITARY INSPECTOR
1945.



COUNCIL OFFICES,
BRYNMAWR.

November, 1946

BRYNMAWR URFAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Chairman, 1945.

Councillor J.E.Jones. J.P.

Vice-Chairman, 1945.

Councillor W.M.Jenkins.

Chairman, 1945.

Public Health, Housing & Highways
Committee:-

Councillor J.E.Jones. J.P.

MEMBERS. - 1945.

North East Ward

Counc. R.J.Rowson.
Counc. T.J.Minton.
Counc. Tom Parry. ~~Mr.~~

South Eastern Ward.

Counc. H.C.Jones.
Counc. Frank Bush.
Counc. Mrs. C.M.Gardmer.

Central Ward.

Counc. W.Heaton.
Counc. Gurnos Jones.
Counc. Denias Smith.

Western Ward.

Counc. B.W.Jones.
Counc. J.E.Jones.
Counc. James Lewis.
Counc. V.Purnell.

Southern Ward.

Counc. W.M.Jenkins.
Counc. J.R.Morgan.
Counc. J.T.Harding.
Counc. T.H.Davies.

Members of the Council elected in April, 1946, for the following
three years:-

North East Ward

Counc. T.J.Minton.
Counc. Tom. Parry.
Counc. J.R.Enoch.

South Eastern Ward.

Counc. W.Morris Jones.
Counc. Edmund. J.Williams.
Counc. W.H.Sutherland.

Central Ward.

Counc. Gurnos Jones.
Counc. Denias Smith.
Counc. George Brown.

Western Ward.

Counc. B.W.Jones.
Counc. J.E.Jones.
Counc. James Lewis.
Counc. Wilf Jones.

Southern Ward.

Counc. W.M.Jenkins. J.P.
Counc. J.R.Morgan.
Counc. J.T.Harding.
Counc. W.C.White.

Public Health Officers of the
Local Authority.

Medical Officer of Health
(Part-time)

Dr. S.N.Chopra, M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P.

Sanitary Inspector and Inspector
of Meat and other Foods.

E.T.Hall, M.S.I.A., Cert.R.S.I.
and S.I.E.J.B.

Engineer and Surveyor.

G.D.Barnes. A.M.Inst. B.E.,
B.Sc. (Inter).



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To the Chairman and Members of the Brynmawr
Urban District Council.

Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my ninth
Annual Report upon the Sanitary circumstances of
the District, the health of the people and the
work of the Public Health Department, during the
year 1945.

The Registrar General's estimate of the
population of the District is 6231.

I wish to tender my thanks to the Members
of the Council for their helpful consideration and
co-operation in all matters affecting Public Health.

I am, Mr.Chairman, and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

S.N.Chopra.

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF
THE AREA.

Brynmawr has always been the dormitory town for the adjoining mining areas and the depression in these districts has had its effect on the Urban District. During the war-time, most of the people were working in Glascoed and Pontrilas, but on cessation of the hostilities, unemployment is again becoming a problem for the district.

The Council has done all in its power and is still doing everything to encourage and bring more new Industries into the town where facilities for such are ample, and I am glad to say their efforts have been rewarded as a large factory is going to be built; and one hopes it will bring employment to many residents.

The housing problem is still a very serious matter in the town, but the Council is energetically pressing with the plans for providing more new homes, but the town still needs a great many homes.

The exposed position of the area has the effect of making dampness in homes a serious problem and this dampness is the cause of a considerable number of cases of rheumatism and respiratory diseases. A large percentage of the working class dwellings in the district are badly in need of reconditioning or repair and whilst owners of the property referred to are being prevailed upon to put their property in repair, the bulk of the work will have to be left until a later period when materials and man power will be ample. However, in the meantime, every effort is being made by our Sanitary Inspector in this direction.

The number of inhabited houses at the end of 1944, according to the Rate Books was :- 1,770.

The Rateable Value of the District is £20,305.

The Product of a Panny Rate for the Financial Year ending 31st March, 1945 is £74.

Rates in the £.	General Rate.	£1. 1. 0.
	Water Rate.	1. 0.
	Total.	£1. 2. 0.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics.

Birth Rate.

Live Births.

Legitimate - Total 81. Males 45. Females 36.
Illegitimate- Total 5. Males 2 Females 3.

Showing a Birth Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated population of 13.8 as compared to 18.6. in 1944.

Still Births.

Total 4. Males. 2 Females. 2.

Legitimate:-

Total 4. Males 2. Females. 2.

Illegitimate:-

Total Nil.

Death Rate.

The number of deaths during the year was:-

Total 97. Males. 56. Females. 41.

Being a Death Rate per 1,000 of the Estimated resident population of :- 15.6 as compared to 10.7 in 1944.

Maternal Death Rate.

Deaths from Puerperal Causes:-

Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis - Nil.
Other Maternal Causes - 1

Infantile Mortality.

Deaths of Infants under one year:-

Legitimate Total 3. Males 2. Females 1.

Illegitimate Total 1. Male 1.

Total 4. Males 3. Females. 1.

GENERAL.

Infectious Diseases reported were:-

Scarlet Fever.	16.	Measles	104
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fever.	Nil.	Pneumonia	29
Whooping Cough.	20.	Cerebro Spinal Fever	2
Diphtheria.	Nil.	Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil.
Erysipelas.	Nil.	Ophthalmia Neonotorum	Nil.
Small Pox.	Nil.		

SECTION B.

Laboratory Facilities:- Monmouthshire County Council,
Public Health Department,
Newport.

Ambulance Facilities:- No change.

Nursing in the Home:- No change.

Clinics and Treatment Centres:- No change.

Hospitals, Public and Voluntary- No change.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

(1) WATER. The District is supplied with water from the Reservoir on the Llangattock Mountain, which is fed from the upland gathering grounds. When the need arises, this supply is augmented by pumping a supply of water into the Reservoir from the Clydach Springs, by means of a Blackstone Engine which pumps 12,000 gallons per hour. However, it was NOT necessary to resort to pumping during this year.

The supply is, therefore, satisfactory in quantity.

The water is chlorinated after sand filtration and is of a satisfactory quality. Frequent samples are taken from the raw water reservoir, storage tanks and household supplies and submitted to the Laboratory of the Monmouthshire County Council for Bacteriological and Chemical examination.

-ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1945,

-WATER.

As previous report to:-

During 1945, 3 samples of drinking water were taken for chemical analysis and 13 samples were taken for bacteriological examination.

The results are as follows:-

<u>Date sample taken.</u>	<u>Water sampled.</u>	<u>Chemical analyses.</u>
10.12.45.	1. Raw water from reservoir.	Satisfactory.
"	2. Filtered water	"
"	3. Household supply	"

<u>Date sample taken.</u>	<u>Water sampled.</u>	<u>Bacteriological examination.</u>
24.1.45	1. Raw water from reservoir	Fairly satisfactory.
	2. Water from valve chamber to small storage tank.	Satisfactory - can be considered safe for use as a drinking supply.
	3. Water from small storage tank	" "
	4. No.1. valve chamber	" "
	5. No.2. valve chamber.	" "
	6. Large storage tank.	" "
	7. Household supply (1, Alma Street).	" "
12.6.45.	8. Raw water from reservoir	Satisfactory.
	9. Filtered water	"
	10. Household supply	"
10.12.45.	11. Raw water from reservoir	Only just satisfactory for an untreated supply.
	12. Filtered water	Below a proper standard.
	13. Household supply	" " " "

With reference to the unsatisfactory reports of the samples taken on 10.12.45. investigations were immediately made, and it was noted that prior to this sampling, the water had not been chlorinated due to the fact that a supply of 'Chloros' was not available, a supply previously ordered having been lost in transit. As a result of the unsatisfactory report, every effort was made to obtain an immediate delivery of 'Chloros' and upon further samples taken on 1st January, 1946, satisfactory results were obtained.

Tests for Plumbo-Solvent Action.

The water is of a "soft" character and realising the possible plumbo-solvent action, special samples have recently been submitted, specifically for plumbo-solvent tests.

Mr Hogen, Public Analyst for the County of Monmouth, has made an examination of samples of the water and has reported:-

"As a result of the experiments made I am of opinion that the Brynmawr water as supplied to householders exerts an appreciable solvent action on a fresh surface of lead during the first 24 hours, this feature being common to many other supplies. The lead, however, becomes gradually covered with an insoluble coating and after four days the solvent action becomes so slight as to be inappreciable".

Three samples were also submitted to the County Health Laboratory at Newport and the report given by Dr. Panos, the County Bacteriologist is summarized, as follows:-

"These three samples of water all have a considerable action on a freshly polished surface of lead during the first 24 hours, the action decreasing on subsequent days and on the fourth day being of no significance, owing to the lead having become covered with a protective layer of insoluble material".

It must be stated that few lead services are in use in the area, the exception being possible use of lead in hot-water systems and even in those cases it is satisfactory to note that an insoluble coating is formed on such lead services.

Particulars regarding water services in the Urban Area:-

Total number of dwelling houses	1,770.
(Estimated population).	6,231.

Number of dwelling houses supplied from public water mains:	1,714.
(Estimated number of persons supplied).	6,057.

Number of dwelling houses <u>not</u> supplied from mains.	56.
(Estimated number of persons <u>not</u> supplied).	324.

In all dwelling houses supplied from the public water mains, the service is direct to the house - there are not any properties supplied by means of standpipes.

It will be noted that the percentage of dwelling houses in this area not served by public water services is 3.3%, while the percentage of population not served is 0.87%.

The dwellings not supplied are properties widely separated in isolated parts of the Urban Area, and situated above the level of the Reservoir. These houses and farms take supplies from mountain springs and these are periodically inspected.

SECTION D.

Housing Statistics.

Public Health.

1. INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR.

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for Housing Defects (Under Public Health or Housing Acts).....	218
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	571
(2) (a)	Number of dwellings (included under sub head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidation Regulations, 1925.....	206
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose.....	206
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so injurious or dangerous to health as to be unfit for human habitation (in addition to 120 houses previously reported as scheduled for proposed clearance).	9
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive to those referred to under the preceding sub head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation.	92

2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES.

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or its Officers.	56
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3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR.

(a)	Proceeding under Sections 9,10, and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.	
(1)	Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring repairs.	Nil,
(2)	Number of houses in which defects were remedied after the service of Formal Notices:	
(a)	By owners.....	Nil.
(b)	By Local Authority in default of owners.....	Nil.

(b) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts.

- | | |
|---|----|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in which notices were served requiring defects to be remedie. | 36 |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices. | |
| (a) By owners..... | 30 |
| (b) By Local Authority in default of owner..... | 6 |

Many difficulties were experienced in remedying defects in houses. Contractors were generally anxious to carry out repairs for owners, but were delayed, owing to labour shortage and scarcity of some building materials.

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... | Nil. |
| (2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders..... | Nil. |
| (3) Number left standing pursuant to Circular 1866..... | 22 |

(d) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|------|
| (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made..... | Nil. |
| (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit..... | Nil. |

4. (a) HOUSING ACT, 1936. PART (iv) - Overcrowding.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------|
| (a) 1. Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year..... | See Section A
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| 2. Number of families dwelling therein. | " |
| 3. Number of persons dwelling therein. | " |
| (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year..... | " |
| (c) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year..... | N.B. |
| Number of persons concerned in such cases..... | Nil. |

- (d) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling houses have become overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding..... Nil.
- (e) Any other particulars with respect to overcrowding conditions upon which the Medical Officer may consider it advisable to report..... Nil.

Lack of Housing accommodation has made this problem of major importance during the year. This problem still continues.

House to House Inspection of Council Owned Houses.

Number of Council Houses inspected during the year 123

Number of Houses found to be in an unsatisfactory condition, dirty or verminous 6

Verminous or dirty premises were dealt with immediately after inspection.

Unsatisfactory tenants are kept under close observation by the Sanitary Inspector.

Lists of necessary repairs required were passed to the Surveyor's Department for attention.

Eradication of Bed Bugs.

Council Houses.	Infested - 1
	Disinfested - 1
Other Houses.	Infested - 4
	Disinfested - 4

All infested premises are visited by the Sanitary Inspector who decides on methods of disinfection to be adopted. Bed Bugs are usually dealt with by fumigation, followed by spraying with liquid insecticide.

In cases where any re-infestation occurred, further treatments were given.

Rats and Mice Destruction Act, 1919, and Infestation Order, 1943.

The work specified under the Infestation Order, 1943, has proceeded satisfactorily.

Two treatments of the town's sewers have been made, each treatment necessitating the baiting of 124 Sewer Manholes.

First treatment:	Estimated number of Rats destroyed	1,210
Second treatment:	" " " " "	207
		<u>1,417.</u>

Surface Infestations.

With regard to the treatment of surface infestations, it was decided to make a charge of 2/6d. in respect of a treatment of a dwelling house and 10/6d. for treatment of small business premises. In the case of larger establishments, which may require a larger number of baiting points and extra supervision, it was decided to fix the cost, in proportion to the work involved.

A survey of the town resulted in 30 premises being found to be infested,

Treatments were made with the following results:-

Premises cleared	Good results noted.	Small takes recorded, thus remain under supervision
12	12	6

Estimated number of Rats destroyed in dwelling houses and business premises..... 220.

Later inspections revealed 4 cases of re-invasions, which were again baited, with good results.

Sewage Disposal Works.

Maintenance treatments were carried out resulting in 4 complete and 9 small 'takes' of poison bait.

Estimated number of Rats destroyed at Sewage Disposal Works.... 190.

It will be noted that the estimated total number of Rats destroyed during the year's campaign is 1827.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

Number of cowsheds on the Register....	....	....	....	6.
Number of Retail-Purveyors on Register	....	....	....	16.

Every effort has been made by the Sanitary Inspector to ensure the production of as clean a supply as possible.

28 visits have been made to cowsheds and dairies in the area. Instructions and advice where necessary have been given to Producers regarding the production of a clean milk. All Dairies have been inspected having regard to general cleanliness and sterilization of utensils. Those Dairyman in whose premises hygienic precautions were not being observed were warned and consequent improvements noted. It was not necessary to resort to Legal Proceedings.

18 samples of milk were taken and submitted for Bacteriological examination, 7 of which were satisfactory. In the cases where unsatisfactory samples were obtained, the matter was taken up with the milk vendors and with the producers, through the Sanitary Inspectors of the Districts in which the milk was produced.

Meat and Other Foods.

The Heathcote Abattoir, which has been taken over by the Ministry of Food serves the whole of the meat supply for the five Urban Districts of Abertillery, Abercarn, Blaenavon, Nantyglo and Blaina and Brynmawr, and a large proportion of our Sanitary Inspector's time has to be devoted to Meat Inspection as a 100% inspection is being maintained. During the year, 517 visits were paid to the abattoir for purposes of Meat Inspection and the following is a table showing the number of animals slaughtered and inspected, together with particulars of meat and offal condemned:-

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs.
No. of animals killed and inspected.	2250.	1885	19261	268
Whole carcasses condemned for diseases other than T.B.	51	1	24	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned except T.B.	513	2	765	6
Percentage of the number inspected affected by diseases other than T.B.	25.1	.15	4.1	2.2
Whole carcasses affected by Tuberculosis.	21	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned for T.B.	190	-	-	30
Percentage affected by T.B.	9.4	-	-	11.2.

TOTAL WEIGHT OF MEAT AND OFFAL CONDEMNED AS BEING UNFIT FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION:-

26 TONS.10 CWT.0 QRS .11 LBS.

Other Foods.

The number of food shops in the area is given below:-

Grocers	Bakers	General Stores including Green Grocers	Fish Friers.	Catering Establishments.
31	4.	60.	5	6.

Routine inspections have been made of all food shops, warehouses, food manufacturing and preparing establishments. All unsound foodstuffs were voluntarily surrendered to the S.I., and those capable of being salvaged were returned to the wholesaler, on the instructions of the Ministry of Food.

The following articles of food were condemned as being unfit for human consumption:-

Canned Foodstuffs	....	285 tins
Canned Corned Beef	....	2000 $\frac{1}{4}$ lbs.
Bacon and prepared meats	....	16 lbs.
Frozen Meat and offal	....	51 lbs.
Bottled Foodstuffs	....	53 bottles or jars.
Pudding Mixtures	....	245 packets.
Dried Fruits	....	242 lbs.
Dried Beans	....	150 lbs.
Lentils	....	40 lbs.
Sago	....	82 lbs.
Tea	....	11 $\frac{1}{2}$ lbs.
Cheese	....	10 $\frac{3}{4}$ lbs.
Cereals	....	1 Packet.
Mustard	....	14 Doz packets
Wet Fish	....	70 lbs.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and Control over
Infectious and other diseases.

During the year the Public Health Department of the Urban District Authority has continued arrangements for the immunisation of the children. Accordingly the Medical Officer of Health attended the clinic at regular intervals and, with the help and co-operation of the School Nurse (Nurse King) and the District Nurse, the majority of the school children were immunised. There still remains the problem of getting hold of the children under 5. Intensive propaganda and canvassing is still being carried on, with the hope that mothers will co-operate and bring their children for immunisation. The Public Health Department of the Local Authority is doing its utmost to bring home to the mothers the urgency of having their infants immunised against diphtheria. Many personal appeals and leaflets were sent to the public, and I am glad to say that the response to our appeal has been most encouraging.

The Council is anxious to facilitate every possible means of assisting the public of Brynmawr in the matter, and I congratulate the Members of the Council on their keen interest in the matter.

Number of children, who at 31st December, 1945
had received a full course of immunisation:-

Age under 5 years -	434
Age 5 years and over, but under 15. -	983

Percentage of child population immunised.

Estimated population of children at 31st December, 1945.

Age under 5 years.	Age 5 years and over, but under 15
489	997

Estimated percentage of child population who
had received a complete course of immunisation:-

Age under 5 years.	Age 5 years and over, but under 15.
88.8%	98.7%

The incidence of infectious diseases was not
high and in spite of the war conditions, the health of
the general public is very good, There was an epidemic
of Measles during the year. No case of diphtheria was
reported during the year, as compared to 2 in 1944.

Notifiable Diseases other than
Tuberculosis during the year
1945.

Diseases.	Total Cases Notified.	Total Deaths.
Small Pox	Nil	Nil
Scarlet Fever	16	Nil.
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil.
Typhoid Fever	Nil	Nil
Paratyphoid Fever	Nil	Nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	Nil	Nil
Pneumonia	29	9
Cerebro Spinal Fever	2	1
Erysipelas	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough.	20	1
Measles	104	Nil

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases.						Deaths.					
Respirat-ory.		Non. Resp.		Total		Respira-tory.		Non Resp.		Total	
M.	F.	M.	F	Respira-tory	Non Resp	M.	F	M	F	Respira-tory	Non. Resp
7	12	2	Nil	19	2	2	4	Nil	Nil	6	Nil

I remain,

Yours faithfully,

S.N.Chopra.

Medical Officer of Health.

